

[2nd November 1957]

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

“ That the alleged breach of privilege be referred to the Committee of Privileges ”.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : I second it, Sir.

Mr. Sattanatha Karayalar rose.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member need not make a speech now.

The question is—

“ That the alleged breach of privilege be referred to the Committee of Privileges ”.

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER : The motion is now referred to the Committee of Privileges. I shall, in this connexion, read the provision contained in Rule 185 of the Assembly Rules. It says : ‘ If the matter is referred to the Committee of Privileges, the Committee shall follow, as far as possible, the same procedure as a Select Committee of the Assembly and make a report to the House ’.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 (1) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES
RE CLOSING OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN FAMINE AND DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

* SRI A. R. SUBBIAH MUDALIAR : தலைவர் அவர்களே திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவில் நியாய விலைக்கடைகளை பாதிப்பாக குறைக்கப் பட்டிருப்பதாகத் தெரியவருகிறது. மத்திய சர்க்காருடைய திட்டப்படி பாதிப்பாக குறைக்கப்பட்டதாக கலெக்டர் அவர்கள் பிளானிங் கமிட்டி மீட்டிங்கில் தெரியப்படுத்தினார்கள். திருநெல்வேலியில் சங்கரன்கோவில், நாங்குனேரி தாலுகா, தென்காசியில் ஒரு பகுதி இவைகள் அதிக பஞ்சத்தில் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அந்தப் பஞ்சப் பிரதேசங்களில் நியாய விலைக்கடைகள் அடைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. பிளானிங் கமிட்டியில் இதைப்பற்றி விவாதித்து பஞ்சப் பிரதேசத்திலாவது அடைத்த கடைகளை திறக்கவேண்டுமென்று தெரியப்படுத்தி, அது அவசியம் என்று ஏகமனதாக கமிட்டியில் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அது சர்க்காருக்கும் தெரியப்படுத்தப்பட்டதாகத் தெரியவருகிறது.

இந்த பஞ்சப் பிரதேசங்களில் இப்போது வைத்திருக்கக்கூடிய கடைகள் காணாத நிலைமையில் இருக்கும்போது, இப்போது இருக்கக்கூடியதை பாதிப்பாக குறைப்பது என்பது அங்குள்ள ஜனங்களை கூடுதலாக கஷ்டப்படுத்துவதாகும். ஆகவே சங்கரன்கோவில் தாலுகா, நாங்குனேரி தாலுகா தென்காசி தாலுகாவில் ஒரு பகுதி ஆகிய இந்த மூன்று இடங்களிலாவது கண்டிப்பாக இப்போது இருக்கக்கூடிய கடைகளை குறைக்கவேண்டாம் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு இதை வற்புறுத்தத்தான் இதை . கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன். அத்துடன் சங்கரன்கோவில் அர்பன் எரியா, நாங்குனேரி அர்பன் எரியா போன்ற இடங்களில் இப்போது இருப்பதைவிட கூடுதலாக கடைகளை திறந்தால் நல்லது என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement with reference to the motion of the hon. Member.

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With a view to bring down and stabilize the prices of rice and paddy, this Government in consultation with the Government of India, introduced in May 1956, a scheme of selling Central Government rice to the public at controlled rates through fair price shops opened by co-operative societies and private dealers selected for the purpose.

In pursuance of this and taking into account the seasonal conditions in certain parts of Tirunelveli district, a large number of fair price shops, viz., were opened in that district and they were catering to the needs of the people of the district. These 109 fair price shops were functioning till 30th September 1957.

In September 1957, the Government of India decided to discontinue supplies of rice to the fair price shops in this State with effect from 1st October 1957, owing to curtailment of overseas imports, due to difficulties of foreign exchange and the consequent difficult stock position of rice with them and in view of the impending harvest (Kuruvai) in this State. However, at the special request of this Government, the Government of India have agreed to supply a limited quota of 4,000 tons of rice a month, for a period of three months (viz., October, November and December 1957) on a loan basis, as against the previous monthly quota of about 8,000 tons. Consequent on the above cut in the rice supply to the fair price shops, it became necessary for this Government to reduce the number of fair price shops in this State by 50 per cent from 1st October 1957. There are at present only 477 fair price shops functioning in this State as against about 950 shops at the end of September 1957.

The Collector of Tirunelveli was accordingly requested to reduce the number of fair price shops in the district, after examining the case of each shop and to decide about the need for its retention with reference to location, offtake, etc., and also taking into consideration the fact that the short-term paddy crop would be harvested shortly in the district. The Collector took action with reference to the above instructions and closed down 55 fair price shops with effect from 1st October 1957 out of the 109 shops that were functioning at the end of September 1957. There are thus 54 fair price shops functioning in Tirunelveli district at present.

It may be mentioned that the following areas have been declared as drought-affected areas in Tirunelveli district :—

1. Nanguneri taluk—(entire taluk).
2. Tirunelveli taluk—Madavakurichi and Gangaikondan firkas.
3. Sankarankoil taluk—Sankarankoil, Vasudevanallur and Neelidanallur firkas.
4. Tiruchendur taluk—Udangudi and Sattankulam firkas and four villages of Alwarthirunagari firkas.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 (1) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *re*
CLOSING OF FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN FAMINE AND DROUGHT
AFFECTED AREAS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

[Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam] [2nd November 1957]

Forty-nine shops were in the drought affected areas mentioned. Out of these 49 shops, only 15 were closed with effect from 1st October 1957 consequent on the general reduction in the number of Fair Price shops in the district. There are 54 Fair Price shops functioning in the drought-affected areas as against the total number of 54 shops in the whole district. Of these 34 Fair Price shops, 14 are in Nanguneri taluk, 8 in Tiruchendur, 9 in Sankaran-koil taluk and 3 in Tirunelveli taluk.

It will be seen from the above, that out of the 54 Fair Price shops in the whole of Tirunelveli district, 34 shops or about 63 per cent of the total number, are located in drought and famine affected areas of the district. The Collector has therefore taken into due consideration the needs of these areas and has retained a large number of shops there.

It may be stated in this connection that compared to the number of Fair Price shops retained in the other deficit districts of the State since 1st October 1957, the existing number of 54 shops in Tirunelveli district, are sufficiently large and such a large number of shops have been retained only because of the adverse seasonal conditions in certain areas of the district already referred to.

Considering the fact that the total monthly quota of rice for the whole State is only about 4,000 tons, which has to be distributed among 477 fair price shops in the State, it may not be possible generally speaking to increase the existing number of shops in any district unless the Central Government allot a larger quota of rice.

It is observed from the prevailing open market prices of rice in various taluks of Tirunelveli district in the current month (October), that the prices range between Re. 0-12-0 and Re. 0-14-0 per Madras measure for *boiled rice II sort* and between Re. 0-12-9 and Re. 1 for *raw rice II sort*. The above prices cannot be said to be too high when compared to the prices prevailing in the other districts. It is further observed from the latest reports that on account of the recent rains, seasonal conditions have improved in the district and there is no room for anxiety. The Government will be prepared to consider the opening temporarily of one or two more shops in any particular locality where it is keenly fit.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS VILLAGE PANCHAYATS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957— *cont.*

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday we were considering the Village Panchayats Bill. The Hon. Minister had moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The hon. Member Mr. Palanisami had moved an amendment that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion. The position therefore today is that the amendment of Sri Palanisami has to be put first to the vote of